

am cosponsoring because I believe we cannot wait any longer to address this country's budget deficit. It was in March of last year, when I was simply a candidate for Congress, that this House last voted on a balanced budget amendment. The amendment failed then, but the deficit has not stopped growing. In fact, the national debt has increased by more than \$160 billion since last March. Gross interest payments alone are costing us \$315 million per day. Until we bring this problem under control these interest payments will continue to skyrocket, devouring larger and larger portions of the budget. This process has a devastating regressive effect on the rest of the budget because it severely hampers our ability to fund important discretionary programs.

Our interest payments this year alone will be 8 times higher than expenditures on education and 50 times higher than expenditures on job training. We cannot exacerbate this situation any further or we will completely cripple countless generations to come. For this reason, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the bipartisan balanced budget amendment, House Resolution 28.

DEFERRING SPECIAL ORDER ON WHITEWATER

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, tonight I was going to take a 1-hour special order to talk about Whitewater, the Arkansas Development Financial Authority, and possible involvement by Members of the White House in these endeavors.

However, because of the parliamentary debate that has taken place on the floor today, and because I want to make sure I comply with parliamentary procedures, I have decided to defer my special order until next Wednesday, at which time I will go into that, and make sure we comply with our great Parliamentarian's rulings.

URGING SUPPORT FOR THE STENHOLM-SCHAEFER CONSENSUS BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

(Ms. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, next week this House will take up several proposals to amend our Constitution to require a balanced Federal budget. I urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan consensus version of this amendment that will be offered by my colleagues, the gentleman from Texas, CHARLIE STENHOLM, and the gentleman from Colorado, DAN SCHAEFER.

This measure has several important features not found in competing proposals. It requires a balance of actual

outlays against actual receipts. It would not include securities held by the Social Security trust fund when the fund is running a surplus. It requires the President to submit a complete budget plan that is in balance. It includes a thoughtful exemption requiring that the United States be engaged in military conflict before Congress could vote to waive its requirements.

Under current policies, according to the analytical prospectus volume of the budget of the United States, future generations are projected to face a lifetime net tax rate of 82 percent in order to pay the bills that we are leaving them. For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support the Stenholm-Schaefer balanced budget amendment, as I am doing.

PASS UNFUNDED MANDATES LEGISLATION

(Mr. EVERETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. EVERETT. Mr. Speaker, a headline in today's Washington Post reads "Unfunded Mandates Top Cities' List of Problems." It cites a study by the National League of Cities that finds unfunded mandates is the issue local governments find most vexing.

It's time for Congress to put an end to this practice of trying to balance our books on the backs of State and local governments. If the Federal Government cannot pay for it, we will not force the costs on the States.

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That is what our unfunded mandate legislation will accomplish. Republicans want to change the culture of Washington through unfunded mandates legislation and a balanced budget amendment.

We want a Government that works for the people, not against the people.

I urge my colleagues to supported unfunded mandates legislation. The time has come to change the culture of Washington.

The article to which I referred is as follows:

UNFUNDED MANDATES TOP CITIES' LIST OF PROBLEMS—OFFICIALS SURVEYED ALSO CITE CRIME, VIOLENCE

(By John M. Goshko)

Halting increases in crime and violence, curbing costly federal requirements and creating more jobs are the biggest problems facing American towns and cities, according to the National League of Cities' annual survey of the issues preoccupying municipal officials.

The NLC, a bipartisan organization that represents state municipal leagues with a combined membership of 16,000 cities, based its findings on responses from 382 elected officials drawn from cities of 10,000 people or more. The findings of the survey, conducted before the November elections, closely paralleled many of the concerns that dominated campaigns and led to Republican control of Congress.

The survey found that unfunded mandates—laws or regulations imposed on cities without funding from federal or state governments—is the issue local governments find most vexing. The adverse impact of these mandates on cities with shrinking municipal financial resources was cited by 74.2 percent of respondents as a steadily worsening situation that Congress must address urgently.

Also of great concern to municipal officials is a panoply of public safety issues: youth crime (63.4 percent), school violence (52 percent), gangs (51.3 percent), drugs (48.4 percent) and violent crime (40.8 percent).

In proposing ways to deal with crime, respondents broke sharply with the tough measures proposed by House Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) in his "Contract With America." In accordance with GOP campaign promises, Congress is preparing to consider substantial revision of the omnibus crime bill, passed under President Clinton's sponsorship last summer, to divert funds from crime-prevention programs to prison construction.

The NLC survey asked respondents to measure the potential effectiveness of 20 different approaches to reducing crime. They expressed the least confidence in get-tough ideas such as more death penalties (8.1 percent), more prisons (8.4 percent), elimination of parole (9.9 percent) and stricter gun control (11.8 percent).

By contrast, 63.6 percent of respondents declared themselves in favor of strengthening family stability as the most effective deterrent to crime. They also gave high marks to job creation, after-school and recreational programs and early-childhood education such as Head Start as approaches to fighting crime.

"Municipal officials believe that last year's crime bill struck the right balance," said Donald J. Borut, NLC executive director. "There is serious concern about the current efforts at revision under consideration in Congress. Last summer's bill has been in effect barely four months, and we believe it should be given a chance before attempts are made to tamper with it."

Both Borut and Carolyn Long Banks, NLC president and an Atlanta city council member, stressed that the greatest concern in city governments is unfunded mandates. They praised Sen. Dirk Kempthorne (R-Idaho) for taking the lead on legislation that would curb Washington's power to impose mandates without funding them.

Banks noted that unfunded mandates take up almost 15 percent of Atlanta's annual budget. She added that her city is being fined \$9,000 a day for failing to comply with a federal law requiring construction of a system to handle storm and water runoff. It hasn't been done, she said, because the city doesn't have the money to meet federal specifications and because many residents don't want the requisite construction in their neighborhoods.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOODLATTE). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 1995, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. GILLMOR] is recognized for 5 minutes.